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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 10 (a)
Implementation of the international drug control treaties: challenges and future work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the World Health Organization in the review of substances for possible scheduling recommendations

Belarus, Colombia, Israel, Peru, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and United States of America: revised draft resolution

Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances and incidents involving such substances

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 56/4 of 15 March 2013, on enhancing international cooperation in the identification of, collection of information on and reporting of new psychoactive substances to better understand the threat,

Recalling also its resolution 55/1 of 16 March 2012, on promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances,

Recognizing the possible threat to public health and safety posed by the spread of potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances not under international control that are often marketed as legal products and that have led to increased abuse and overdoses, as evidenced by hospital admissions and deaths, sometimes as a result of poly-substance use,

Recognizing also that the way these drugs are marketed often implies that they are safe and legal, despite increasing evidence that many of them have been associated with adverse outcomes, including overdose, injuries, hospital admissions and death, when used alone and in combination with other substances,

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Acknowledging the increased speed at which the market has developed and has diversified, resulting in the wide availability and accessibility, including through the Internet, of new psychoactive substances,

Highlighting progress that has been achieved in identifying, monitoring and reporting on a large number of new psychoactive substances, including through the work of national authorities, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme and the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, and regional organizations such as the European Union, through the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, as well as regional organizations in Latin America,

Underscoring the need to detect, analyse and identify new psychoactive substances as part of a scientific evidence-based, balanced, comprehensive and integrated approach to drug policy that seeks both to reduce demand and to restrict supply in order to prevent abuse,

Bearing in mind the common and shared responsibility to tackle the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances,

Highlighting the continued need to collect and share information on the possible harmful effects to individuals and public health posed by new psychoactive substances, using, where appropriate, existing national and regional data-collection and information-exchange systems,

Underscoring the importance of collecting and sharing information on pharmacological data and research, on the prevalence of abuse and its adverse outcomes, and on relevant public health responses relating to new psychoactive substances, to ensure that responses are based on scientific evidence,

Reaffirming the roles, under the United Nations drug control conventions, of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization in the process of limiting narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to medical and scientific uses, and the role of the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with Member States, in ensuring the availability of adequate amounts of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, as set out in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[1] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[2]

Welcoming the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012,[3] in which the Board raised awareness of the challenges posed by the abuse of new psychoactive substances by identifying the problem as a special topic and making recommendations to Member States about use of the international scheduling process,

Acknowledging the efforts of the World Health Organization to make progress on the review of substances, including new psychoactive substances,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[3] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.1).

Recognizing the continued value to Member States of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme, in particular the early warning advisory, including, where appropriate, the use of existing national and regional early warning systems and networks, as well as its international collaborative exercises for national drug testing laboratories,

Recalling its resolution 48/11 of 11 March 2005, in which it urged all States and relevant international organizations to cooperate closely with the initiatives of the International Narcotics Control Board, and recognizing that activities under such initiatives can facilitate the development of intelligence-led investigations by national law enforcement authorities,

Welcoming the declaration adopted on 4 December 2013 at the joint International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime conference on precursor control in Asia, held in Bangkok, in which Member States expressed their willingness to take practical steps to counter the trafficking of new psychoactive substances,

Welcoming also the establishment by the International Narcotics Control Board of Project ION, an international operational initiative, under the direction of the Board's task force on new psychoactive substances, as a means to support law enforcement and regulatory agencies, while respecting existing mechanisms for mutual legal assistance and international cooperation,

Welcoming further the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *The Challenge of New Psychoactive Substances*, published in March 2013, which provides a comprehensive overview of the nature and magnitude of new psychoactive substances,

1. *Urges* Member States and relevant organizations to continue collecting data, as requested in its resolution 55/1, on new psychoactive substances and the possible threats they pose to public health and safety and to share relevant data, in particular on the negative health impacts of the use of new psychoactive substances;

2. *Urges* Member States to share, where appropriate, best practices on demand reduction measures and treatment guidelines and scientific evidence-based treatment practices, including information on patterns of use and the profile of users, while protecting their identity and privacy, in accordance with their national legislation, in order to strengthen prevention, rehabilitation and treatment strategies;

3. *Encourages* concerned Member States to collaborate on the development of multifaceted prevention strategies that address this challenge and are appropriate for targeted groups, and that provide information on the potential adverse health and social effects of new psychoactive substances, using appropriate communication channels;

4. *Calls on* Member States, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, where appropriate, to collaborate on the development of these strategies, through the provision of all kinds of assistance, including, but not limited to, technical assistance, upon request, in order to improve their ability to face this challenge;

5. *Recommends* that Member States exchange ideas, best practices and experiences in adopting effective responses, at the national and regional levels, to address the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, such as through use of early warning systems to identify potential threats, new and existing legislation, temporary restriction measures in response to harmful effects to public health, enforcement initiatives, and prevention, demand reduction and treatment strategies;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to incorporate a focus on new psychoactive substances in its demand reduction, prevention and treatment programmes and communications, as appropriate, and to support capacity-building, upon request, for improved monitoring and response;

7. *Invites* Member States to take appropriate measures to strengthen international cooperation in the exchange of information regarding the identification of new psychoactive substances, the methods used for their distribution, the modi operandi of criminal and other organizations involved in the production, processing and international distribution of such substances, including supply routes, and the use of the Internet to facilitate those activities;

8. *Urges* Member States to use and follow the scheduling processes of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[4] and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[5] including by providing the World Health Organization with timely information and identifying a national government focal point to coordinate the provision of information on substances for effective review by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence;

9. *Encourages* Member States to consider the provisional application of control measures as established under the 1961 Convention as amended and the 1971 Convention to strengthen domestic regulatory controls, particularly regarding new psychoactive substances, while ensuring their availability for medical, scientific and industrial purposes, where appropriate;

10. *Invites* the World Health Organization to consider reviewing new psychoactive substances on a timetable that is sequenced effectively with the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to minimize the time needed to apply international controls under the drug control conventions, where appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Drug Dependence to prioritize its workload, taking into consideration information of particular regional and international concern regarding substances not under international control, including information available through the early warning advisory and from Member States;

12. *Invites* Member States to respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of new psychoactive substances and to consider contributing, where possible, to the review by the World Health Organization of substances of particular international concern;

13. *Also invites* Member States to support activities under the International Narcotics Control Board task force on new psychoactive substances by naming, where appropriate, a government focal point for International Narcotics Control

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

Board communications, promoting the exchange of those communications with all relevant authorities, participating in relevant time-bound initiatives of the task force that target major organizations involved in the suspicious shipment of new psychoactive substances and supporting the development of a system to communicate on suspicious shipments or related incidents involving new psychoactive substances or substances suspected to be new psychoactive substances;

14. *Requests* Member States to continue to provide the International Narcotics Control Board with information regarding the extent of abuse of and trafficking in products containing synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and measures taken to counter such abuse, in accordance with recommendation 25 of the International Narcotics Control Board in its report for 2010;[6]

15. *Urges* Member States, to collect information on new psychoactive substances, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 55/1, and to share, through bilateral and multilateral channels, as appropriate, while avoiding duplication of efforts, such information, particularly on seizures, abuse, forensics and current domestic legislation through existing mechanisms such as the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme early warning advisory;

16. *Encourages* the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends programme to share, upon request, relevant information with the World Health Organization in order to facilitate its effective review of substances and urges Member States to consider such information when making notifications under the international drug control conventions;

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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[6] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.1).